

Message Text

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TAGS: BE,PINT

SUBJECT: PIERRE BERTRAND,ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

REF: BRUSSELS 12083

1.FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION PERTAINS TO NEWLY APPOINTED
ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (REFTEL)PIERRE
BERTRAND:

DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 6, 1926

PLACE OF BIRTH: LIEGE

EDUCATION: DOCTORATE IN LAW

PROFESSION: ATTORNEY

WAR RECORD: ACTIVE IN BELGIAN RESISTANCE AND

CLANDESTINE PRESS,BERTRAND WAS POLITICAL PRISONER

1940-1945.

DECORATIONS: POLITICAL PRISONER'S CROSS AND COMMEMORATIVE

MEDAL FOR WWII,WITH TWO CROSSED SABRES.

POLITICAL HISTORY: FOLLOWED PERIN OUT OF BELGIAN

SOCIALIST PARTY 1964.SERVED AS WALLOON RALLY (RW)

DEPUTY FROM LIEGE 1968-1974 AND AS RW SENATOR FROM

THE LIEGE DISTRICT 1974-1976.ALSO SERVES AS RW DELEGATE TO THE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.HAS SERVED AS MEMBER OF THE LIEGE MUNICIPAL

COUNCIL SINCE 1970.

2.COMMENT: BERTRAND'S APPOINTMENT AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR ECO-
NOMIC AFFAIRS (UP-GRADED FROM SECRETARY OF STATE)APPEARS TO BE
MATTER OF PRIME POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY(REFTEL).JURIST AND MILITANT
DEFENDER OF FRANCOPHONE RIGHTS,BERTRAND'S RECORD OF PUBLIC SER-
VICE TO DATE SUGGESTS NO SPECIAL COMPETENCE IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD.
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